gineers with retrospective effect from 1973 and payment of arrears from 1978, (b) payment of fixed travelling allowances and (c) cadre review for removal of stagnation in the promotion to the post of Assistant Engineer.

It was also decided in the meeting that these decisions shall be implemented by 15th March 1986. It is surprising as well as shocking that none of the items stated above have been implemented till this date.

Under the circumstances, in pursuance of their most reasonable demands they have gone on an indefinite strike from 14-7 1987. I will mention some of their important demands.

(1) Removal of existing anomaly in pay scales with retrospective effect and minimum scale of Rs. 1640 —2900 basic.

(2) No bifurcation of the cadre of junior engineers.

(3) Immediate implementation of cadre review and personal promotion of junior engineers after 15 years of service. Under the scheme of personal promotion an employee is promoted to the next higher grade while performing his same duties.

(4) At least two promotions to all junior engineers in the entire service period.

(5) Immediate implementation of cadre review promotion through seniority-cum-fitness basis.

(6) Payment of fixed travelling allowance.

(7) Enhancement of planning special pay and design special pay.

(8) Special allowance/pay for junior engineers handling the stores.

(9) Abolition of direct Class II recruitments.

(10) Ban on Class I recruitments.

Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that they are on indefinite strike and there is great resentment among the junior engineers. I would like to request the Government of India, especially the Ministry of Urban Development, to take immediate action to meet the representatives of engineers and their demands. Especially when the Prime Minister has made them to understand that their demands will be fulfilled, the Department should take all steps to see that their demands are met and the strike ended.

श्री शान्ति त्यागी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य की बात से सहमत हूं । सरकार को कर्मचारियों के साथ बैठकर फैसला करना चाहिए ।

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी (मध्य प्रदेश) : जस्टिफाइड केस है।

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): This is quite justified.

Acute Drinking Water Shortage in Rajasthan

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): Sir, I rise to make a Special Mention about the acute shortage of drinking water in Rajasthan. I cannot recollect as to how many numbers of times I have had the misfortune of referring to precisely this problem. I do not have to define the problem, because if I attempt to define the problem to this Government,

या तो ये सुनेंगे नहीं, सुनेंगे तो समझेंगे नहीं और समझेंगे तो कुछ करेंगे नहीं ।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WO-

MEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): Thank you for the compliment.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Don't listen to the reaction. You please go on. Don't provoke them to disturb you.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will not make any personal observation. I will refer only to ministerial pronouncements on the subject and I will be very brief. I made a mention of this specific problem that we face in Rajasthan only on the 16th of April, in response to which I received a letter from Hon'ble Shri Makwana which he signed: "With regards, yours sincerely". In it he says that "shares my concern for the people of Rajasthan" etc. I am neither touched nor reassured by this routine acknowledgement, a more bureaucratic formality.

I have also been in correspondence with the Chief Minister of Rajasthan on this subject. He has been good enough to write me a letter, at some length on the problem. Therefore, I will confine myself only to what Shri Harideo Joshi, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, a Congress-ruled State, has to say on the problem. He says:

> "Rajasthan is haunted with the spectre of a still worse..." I am not responsible for the English construction or syntax etc.—
>
> "...drought for the fourth consecutive year. A severe deficit of rainfall exists in all the districts of Rajasthan. In the last three years the subsoil water had greatly depleted while the withdrawal of water from the wells continued. In the absence of recharge, there has been a further drop in water level. What is worse, the prospects for the next 12 months appear to be extremely bleak, both for drinking water and for irrigation. Irrigation dams reserved exclusively for drinking water have hardly received any water. Most of them are totally dry, while in others the water level is below the SIL level. Thousands of villages..."

Pardon my slight digression, Sir. In Rajasthan we have about 33,000 villages. If I were to ask the Government of Rajasthan how many villages there are in Rajasthan, I get one figure. And if I were to ask the same question of the Government of India, I get another figure. They do not have figures of the total numbers of villages which would tally. So you must take that into account when you reflect on the written statement of the Chief Minister of Rajasthan that—

> "Thousands of villages thus are faced with the prospect of no water at all for drinking purposes."

"Some of the towns and bigger cities too are faced with an acute drinking water problem. Udaipur, which is known as the City of Lakes, has no water in its lakes now. Jodhpur, with a population of "—roughly seven hundred thousand not including a substantial presence of the Armed Forces (there is a Crop headquarters and a major Air Force presence that is not taken into account), as far as drinking water requirements go—" is also faced with similar dire situation. "Jawai Dam—that supplies all water to Jodhpur—has precisely three days of water supply left." "Ajmer, Bewar and Kishangarh which even last year were getting water"—for one hour in every three days—"are beset with still worse prospects." "We," says the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, "may have the worst water famine in living memory." Thereafter he says, "With the present financial position of the State being what it is, it might be impossible for the State Government to bear the brunt of yet another famine. Even the pending liabilities of the current drought year (1986-87)" —We routinely have this. Because we don't complain from Rajasthan, therefore, we are not paid heed to—

"amounting to Rs. 36 crores as wages"—wages for people having worked and not paid—" and Rs. 46 crores for material component, i.e., a total of Rs. 82 crores, are still to be cleared. Even to meet this, our request "—the Government of Rajasthan's request—" for additional allotment of 3.5 lac MTs. of wheat and substantial cash assistance is pending with the Government of..."—you don't have to guess...(*Time bell rings*)...I will finish very quickly. "The situation, indeed, is so grim that it calls for special efforts..." The Chief Minister of Rajasthan says, "Very often, the policies and prescriptions applicable to semi-arid areas are applied to drought situation of Rajasthan which, unfortunately, is an arid area. We are advised"—by the Government of India, "we" meaning the Government of Rajasthan— "to take irrigation, forestry and soil conservation works, even in two-third of the State which constitutes the Thar Desert, despite the fact that there is no water to be impounded in or the absence of water no trees can be grown." This is not a complaint being made by me; it is being made by the Chief Minister of Rajasthan.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): If you are still left with it, you can forward the letter to the Government.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am concluding. Why forward the letter? I have to fulfil my responsibility. I am concluding very quickly now. The Chief Minister of Rajasthan says "The State Government has taken up the matter with the Government of India both at official and Ministerial levels." "I,"—meaning the Chief Minister—"have personally brought the position to the notice of the Prime Minister also. He was quite sympathetic." We cannot drink sympathy, unfortunately.

Therefore, Sir, I ask for just three simple things. Firstly, please clear the past liabilities of the State of Rajasthan for the period April to July 1987, of Rs. 82 crores, of which the wage component of labourers who have actually worked and remained unpaid is Rs. 36 crores. Secondly, "since the situation so difficult, it might be appropriate"—these are the wording of the Chief Minister—if the Government of India could be persuaded to give ds *ad-hoc* grant—Who will do the persuasion?—"without going through the formal procedures such as inviting the Central Study Team"—visits, T.A., D.A., etc. Thirdly—and finally—to obviate evacuation and such other extreme happenings, the contingency plan prepared by the State Government for drinking water must immediately be cleared by the Government of India. I don't have to say anymore. This is what the Chief Minister of Rajasthan says.

I urge the Government of India —please act. It is not as if the famine, drinking water shortage, is impending. It is upon us. It was there yesterday. Action required is as urgent as yesterday—not tomorrow.

Thank you.

Teachers' Strike

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta. You have heard in the Question Hour that we are having a discussion on the subject. So, you can be very brief.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I have been listening to the speech made by the Education Minister. In my opinion, he was speaking the language of the private sector management because the industrialists and capitalists of our country always hold out the condition that the workers should withdraw the strike and that then only can negotiations begin. He was spea-